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Remarks

Applicant has added new claims 64-69. Support for the claims is found throughout the specification, for example at:

- for claim 64, p. 5, lines 32-33; p. 6, lines 8-12, 21-22 and 26-28; p. 8, lines 1-6; p. 9, lines 20-22; p. 10, lines 14-15 and 29-31; p. 11, lines 13-22 and 29-33;
- for claim 65, p. 3, lines 29-30;
- for claims 66-68, p. 4, line 1 to p. 5, line 7; p. 5, lines 15-17; p. 12, lines 23-24; p. 14, line 21 to p. 15, line 3; p. 23, lines 3-4;
- for claim 69, p. 1, lines 16-18; p. 21, lines 2-14; p. 23, lines 31-32.

No new matter has been added.

Potentially Interfering Published Application

Applicant informs the Examiner that this application presents one or more claims that may correspond to one or more claims published on April 20, 2006 in U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2006/0083747 A1 (Winter et al.). See 37 C.F.R. § 10.23(c)(7). Accordingly, Applicant brings this published patent application to the Examiner's attention for consideration under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), 102(g) and 135(a).

Applicant is submitting this application out of an abundance of caution to preserve the right to pursue any claim that may be considered as corresponding to a claim in U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2006/0083747 A1. See 35 U.S.C. § 135(b)(2). Applicant is also preserving the right to suggest an interference with U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2006/0083747 A1.

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Applicant brings to the Examiner's attention that the disclosure on which the attached claims are based was filed at least as early as August 17, 1993 in application US 08/106,944, filed to which the instant application claims priority.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted, Cecile Casterman et al., Applicant

By:

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Date: April 20, 2007

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